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. . . To the new Convention between Bulgaria and Servia, which is to run for ten years, a provision is attached for the appointment of a mixed commission for the exact determination of the Serbo-Bulgarian frontier as laid down by the Berlin treaty.

. . . It is reported that the Russian government is nearly ready to present to the various governments which have been invited to take part in the approaching Hague Conference a draft program of the subjects to be considered.

. . . Among the resolutions passed at the recent annual meeting of the State Federation of Women's Clubs of California was one declaring the 18th day of May, the anniversary of the opening of the Hague Conference in 1899, peace day for the clubs, and urging that at that time peace be the subject for sermons, addresses, exercises in the schools, etc.

. . . In his address at the annual meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs of California on February 9th, at San José, President David Starr Jordan declared that the greatest asset of the Pacific Coast States was the goodwill of the Orient, and that without this goodwill the trade of Japan and China could not be secured and retained. A just attitude toward China and Japan, he said, must be maintained, and a universal law should be established in regard to the exclusion of undesirable immigrants, which would put all countries on a similar footing.

. . . At a recent meeting of the French National Socialist Council the following resolution was voted: "As soon as secret or public events awaken fear of a conflict between governments and render war possible or probable, the socialist parties of the peoples involved shall immediately, on the invitation of the International Socialist Bureau, enter into direct relations with each other with the purpose of determining what action shall be taken by the working men and socialists, in their separate countries and unitedly, in order to prevent war. At the same time the socialist parties of the other countries shall be notified by the secretary of the International Socialist Bureau which shall meet officially, in order to direct the action of the entire international socialist party with the view of preventing war."

. . . The Worcester (Mass.) W. C. T. U. devoted its meetings of February 15 largely to peace topics. In the afternoon parlor social at the home of Mrs. A. A. Bigelow opening responsive readings were given, which had been prepared by the department of peace and arbitration. In the evening exercises Longfellow's "Arsenal at Springfield" was recited by Miss D. D. Barrows, sayings of noted military men against war were presented by Mrs. M. D. Ware, the "Wastefulness of War" was read by Miss Jennie Sutcliffe, and the "Horrors of War" by Miss Grace Taylor. Mrs. Lothrop discussed what women can do to promote peace, and Mrs. Myra Taylor, of Leicester, gave an account of the erection of the statue of Christ on the Andean boundary between the Argentine Republic and Chile.

. . . A dispatch from Berlin, February 19, says that Chancellor von Bülow is confident that the government will have an easy majority over the opposition to giving

the United States reciprocal tariff treaty rates for sixteen months, in order to see if the United States will not agree to a new commercial treaty. On November 29 last the German government proposed the conclusion of a new treaty with the United States which should take account of the changed circumstances. This is a fair and friendly proposition to which our government ought to have responded at once in the most cordial way. "He that hath friends must show himself friendly." Von Bülow has pronounced the idea of a war between Germany and England "a piece of stupidity."

. . . After the frightful massacres and devastations on the Caspian Sea an agreement, pending arbitration, has been arrived at between Tartars and Armenians, ten Armenians and ten Musselmans, all rich men, undertaking to guarantee with their fortunes the strict observance of the agreement.

. . . Sir Edward Cornwall, a member of the new British Parliament, has advanced in the English press the idea of a Congress of the Capitals of the world. The proposition has been approved by the Committee of the Peace Society of London. It grew out of the friendly intercourse between London and Paris under the leadership of Baron d'Estournelles de Constant, Sir Thomas Barclay and others. Such a congress of representatives of the eminent citizens of the capitals of all the nations of the world would be eminently useful in promoting good understanding and friendship.

. . . On the 27th of February the House of Commons voted an appropriation of \$273,080 to compensate France for the surrender of her fishing rights on the coast of Newfoundland. These rights were given up in the agreement between France and Great Britain two years ago for the pacific adjustment of all their outstanding differences.

. . . Klaus Wagner has written a book in German entitled "Krieg," in which he attempts to prove that the saying of Von Moltke that "Perpetual peace is a dream, and not even a beautiful dream," is sound, and that the whole of our civilization and prosperity is the product of war. Any one who wishes to amuse himself by seeing what an ingenious argument can be made for the worst of causes may like to know that "Krieg" is published by Von Hermann Castenoble, Jena, Germany.

How the Baroness von Suttner Wrote "Lay Down Your Arms."

In the *Independent* for February 1, the Baroness von Suttner, the recipient of the Nobel Peace prize in December last, thus describes the way in which she came to write her now famous story, "*Die Waffen Nieder*" ("Lay Down Your Arms"):

"It was toward the end of the year 1880, when I had already reached a mature age and was in the midst of zealous studies in science, philosophy and history, that the idea dawned on me and soon became a deep-set conviction that war was an institution handed down to us by the barbarians and to be removed by civilization. At this same moment I learned by accident that a society existed in England based on this same idea and aiming

to influence public opinion in favor of the creation of a court of arbitration. So I hastened to write to this 'Peace and Arbitration Association' and asked for information. The now venerable Hodgson Pratt, who is the founder and president of that organization, forthwith sent me the by-laws and publications of the society and thenceforth kept up an active correspondence with me. Thus it was that I learned all that had been done and all that remained to be done in this important field.

"The more I looked into the question the more I became absorbed by it, and the more eager I was to do what little I could to advance the cause of peace. As I had had some experience in authorship, I felt that it was in the department of literature that I could do the most good. My idea was, at first, to write a little story in which I would describe a young woman who had lost her beloved husband on the battlefield, and who then suddenly awoke, as it had happened to me, to the condemnation of war. In my own case, however, my convictions were based only on theories, whereas my heroine was to be converted through dire experience.

"While I was engaged in gathering material for my little tale, so much accumulated on my hand, and my mind was so teeming with my subject, that from a novellette my plan grew into a two-volume novel. Not satisfied with superficial information, I now began to consult recognized authorities, to study the campaigns of 1859, 1864, 1866 and 1870-71, to read the memoirs of different generals, to examine the reports of army surgeons and the Red Cross Society, to rummage in libraries and archives among the diplomatic dispatches exchanged during those periods and among the orders given the various armies. Provided with this data I set to work on the historical scaffolding of my book and the development of my plot, whose foundation was, of course, the ardent condemnation of war; and when I could write on the last page of my manuscript, 'The End,' and put at the head of the first page, 'Lay Down Your Arms,' I felt that now I really was in a position to do something for the cause so near my heart. I was armed!

"Full of confidence, I sent my manuscript to the Stuttgart editors who had always heretofore accepted what I offered them, and who had recently asked me for a fresh one. But it was promptly returned to me with this message: 'We regret it, but this novel we cannot use.' So I tried other editors, but all declined it with the remark: 'This does not interest our public'; or, 'It would offend many of our readers'; or, 'It is impossible to publish this in the present military state of affairs.' Such were the opinions of the leading editors of German periodicals.

"I next turned towards the publishers, and first sent the manuscript to my habitual publisher, Pierson, of Dresden. He kept it a long time, and then advised me to change the title, which he found too aggressive, and to submit the manuscript to a competent public man for revision, who would suppress or modify the passages which could give offense in military and political circles. This I, of course, utterly refused to permit. The title of the book expressed clearly the purpose I had in writing it, and told the reader without any subterfuge just what he was to expect between the covers, while the passages which it was proposed to cut out, because they would

excite disapproval in certain quarters, were the very essence of the book, what gave it its *raison d'être*. So I would consent to no change either in title or text.

"As I afterward took part in the peace movement, it has been thought in some quarters that I wrote this book as a consequence of that movement. But the facts are exactly the contrary. My book made me a peace advocate, but it did not spring from my participation in that reform."

The Baroness then tells in the *Independent* article, in a most interesting way, how she came into the peace movement through an incidental meeting with Felix Moscheles, now the chairman of the Standing Committee of the International Arbitration and Peace Association, and how she came to found the Austrian Peace Society in 1891, and to make her first public appearance in the peace movement that year at the Peace Congress in Rome.

With What Nation Have We the Possibility of a Righteous War?

BY CHARLES FLETCHER DOLE.

In the nineteenth of his series of articles on the Spirit of Democracy, now running in the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*, Rev. Charles F. Dole discusses as follows the possibility of our getting into a righteous war with some foreign power:

We have mainly to consider what possibility of righteous war there is with other equal and sovereign nations. Let us count upon the fingers of one hand all the nations with which the United States is likely to have any pretext for a bloody quarrel.

First of these nations is England, our own mother country. Through her colonial possessions she is our nearest neighbor. For the width of the continent her Canadian border marches with ours. We have no better or more friendly neighbor. Our laws, institutions and customs are with slight differences substantially the same. Our people generally profess forms of the same religion. A thousand international links bind us more closely every day. For any thoughtful or humane mind war with England is too terrible and preposterous to contemplate. It would be the straight and almost contemptuous denial of the Christianity of a hundred thousand churches.

For what national interest could war with England be entered upon? Not for any possible pecuniary gain to either nation. Not for the acquisition of territory. There is not even the slightest boundary question anywhere in sight. There is no piece of land upon the earth whose lawful sovereignty stands in doubt that is worth fighting about for either nation. The vast mercantile and industrial interests of both nations are overwhelmingly against war. The sympathies of the great mass of the plain people of both nations are equally against it.

Must we then consider the possibility of war with England over some fancied insult or question of national honor? It is certain that the representative men of both nations have no slightest disposition to insult or prejudice or injure the people of the other nation. There has been immense gain in this respect in fifty years on both sides of the ocean.